### Weekly Vational Intelligencer.

BY GALES & SEATON. JAMES C. WELLING, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1864.

A QUESTION OF LITERARY CRITICISM.

Our reference to the historical question which has been raised in a few minds with regard to the ethnological extraction of Hannibal appears to have suggested to the mind of one of our readers a renewal of the similar question which has been mooted in literature with regard to the nationality of "Othello, the Moor," as conceived and sketched by Shakespeare. On this point we have received the following communication:

WASHINGTON, MARCH 28, 1864. Mashington, March 28, 1864.

Mesers. Editors: Seeing your article this morning on the subject of "Hamibal." I am encouraged to ask if you will not oblige me by giving us some information as to the race to which "Othello" belongs. Shakespeare calls him the "Moor;" yet in various prints and representations he is described as a negro, with the woolly hair and characteristics of that race. I ask for information, and trust you will be disposed to enlighten the ignorance of a Lady Subscriber.

It is quite true, as our fair correspondent observes, that many eminent artists and scholars have supposed that Othello, as conceived and drawn by Shakespeare, is justly represented in the character of a negro. He is so sketched by Retzsch in his Outlines, and he is so presented by the modern German artist Hildebrandt, of the Dusseldorf School, in the picture which long formed the chief attraction of the " Dusseldorf Gallery" in New York. So accurate and learned a scholar as John Quincy Adams has also written in support of the thesis that Othello was a negro.

But it seems to us that our fair correspondent has said all that need be said, and all that can be said, in reply to such representations when she premises her inquiry whether Othello was a pegro by saying that "Shakespeare calls him a Moor." If Shakespeare calls him a Moor, we may be pretty sure that the great dramatist knew what he meant, and did not use the term Moor as a synonym for Ethiopian. The scene of the drama is Richard Grant White, the accomplished scholar and editor of Shakespeare, the Venitians had nothing to do with negroes that we know of, and Moors, they were continually in contact These were a warlike, civilized, and enterprising race, which could furnish an Othello. It is not so pro eye to the fact when he calls Othello "the Moor") that the negro race could have furnished to Venice the valiant captain he has portrayed.

ascribe) to the Moors certain physical characteristics which, whether stated with poetic license or inche language of contumely, certainly symbolize strongly with the distinctive traits of the negro race. Thus Roderigo, the Venetian gentleman, calls Othello " the thick lips;" Brabantic, lamenting the ill-assorted match of his daughter Desdemona, deplores that she had "run from her guardage to the sooty bosom of such a thing" as Othello: Desdemona, justifying her passion, says she "saw Othello's visage in his mind," thus implying that his face made against him in the eyes of the world; Iago, predicting the eventual decline of Desdemona's affection for "the Moor," suggests to Roderigo that "her eye must be fed." and asks "what delight shall she have to look on the devil?" and sgain, the same Mephistophelean Ingo invites Cassio to join "a brace of Cyprus gallants "in a stoup of wine" to the health of black Othello:" Othello himself, yielding to the first suggestion of Desdemona's inconstancy, suspends it on a "haply" suggested by the thought "for I am black," and when oppressed by the full conviction of her guilt, he exclaims,

- "Her name, that was as fresh As Disn's visage, is now begrimed and black
As mine own face;"

and honest Emilia imports that there was some sensible incongruity between Desdemona and Othello when she reproaches the latter by saying that the former was " too fond of her most filthy bargain."

It is from such intimations as these that the impression has been derived by many scholars and artists that Shakespeare meant to represent the Moor as nothing else than a negro.

In reply to all this it is proper to say that Shakespeare ascribes in other plays precisely the same characteristics to personages who incontestibly were " Moors" without being negroes. So Portia, in the Merchant of Venice, closes her heart against the addresses of the Prince of Morocco-a royal Moor and certainly not a negro-by saying, "if he have the condition of a saint and the complexion of a devil, I had rather he should shrive me than wive me." The Prince himself prays her, "mislike me not for my complexion;" and she, when he has scaled his rejection by selecting the wrong casket, rejoins, "may all of his complexion choose me so." And yet he was not "jetty black, but tawny;" for the stage direction in the old quartos is: "Knter Morochus, a taxeny Moor, all in white."

It is plain that in Shakespeare's day, as in our own, there were those who supposed some of the Moors to be so black that little distinction was made in the popular mind and parlance between them and negroes. They were " blacks and Moors," whence for the Army of the Potomac.

the compound word " black-a-moor." Thus Pandarus, in the play of Troilus and Cressida, testily says of his fair niece, "I care not an she were a black-a-moor; 'tis all one to me." The disgusting Aaron, in Titus Andronicus, is such a black-andmoor. He speaks himself of his "fleece of woolly hair," (act II, scene 3;) Bassianus calls him the swarth Cimmerian;" Lavinia styles him "ravencolored;" Titus invokes vengeance on him as one who comes in likeness of a coal-black Moor," and in the second scene of the 4th act Shakespeare labors to portray the union of Tamora and Aaron in colors designed to represent it as most repulsive and unnatural.

Now, it is plain that Othello is not such a Moon as Aaron, but, because he bore in his visage "the shadowed livery of the burnished sun," he was subject in the diction of poetic exaggeration, in the contumelious dialect of his enemies, and in the language of self-depreciation inspired by his own misgivings on the score of his swarthy complexion, to all the epithets which might have been used to characterize an African. And, while we must presume that Shakespeare knew enough of the Moore to be aware that they were not negroes, it is quite probable, as Mr. Richard Grant White suggests, that "his notion of their distinctive traits [physiologically speaking] was perhaps neither very true nor very clear."

But his notion of Othello was true and clear enough, we think, to discriminate between a Moor, roperly so-called, and one who was a black-a-moor. There is direct evidence that Othello was a Mauritanian (and therefore not a negro) of lofty lineage. When defending his right and title to love and espouse Desdemona, he is bold to say, (act I, sc. 2,) "I fetch my life and being from men of royal siege," and Isgo, when speaking of Othello's contiagent retirement from the active command of the Venetian army in the Island of Cyprus, points in the following language to Mauritania as the destined and natural place of his retreat. We quote from

Iago. Sir, there is especial commission come from Venice to depute Cassio in Othello's place.

Roderigo. Is that true? Why, then, Othello and Des-

demona return again to Venice.

Iago. O, no; he goes to Mauritania, and takes away with him the fair Desdemona, unless his abode be lingered here by some accident; wherein none can be so determinate as

Mauritania, then, was the home of Othello, and the Mauritanians, it is unnecessary to say, were not negroes. Least of all is it likely that a Mauritanian who derived his lineage from "men laid in Venice, and, as is well suggested by Mr. of royal siege," that is, from the kingly line of the country, would be a negro.

It may be very true, as Mr. White suggests, that Shakespeare had never seen either a Moor or a could not have in the natural course of things; negro, and hence he might very naturally confuse whereas, with their over-the-way neighbors, the their physiological traits; but we do not think any such explanation is necessary to account for the epithets applied to Othello, nor are these epithets incompatible with Shakespeare's recognition bable (and Shakespeare, we must suppose, had an of his hero's Moorish quality as distinct from the physiological characteristics which compose the type of the negro race. That a man of his perspicacity and learning should confound a The careful reader of Shakespeare is aware that prince of the nation which built the Alhambra he frequently ascribes (or makes his characters with a representative of that degraded race which, when he wrote, was supplying slaves to the British plantations in the West Indies, is hardly possible. From such an error he would be preserved not so much, it may be admitted, by the instinctive prejudice which perhaps causes most American readers to revolt at the thought, as by his general knowledge of history and by his regard for the dramatic proprieties and probabilities of his story. He may have thought the Moors of his day blacker than they really were, but he could not have supposed that they were identical with the negro

> If the Great Dramatist was without the social prejudices engendered by the visible enslavement of the negro race, and by contact with its degraded subjects, he has at least made it plain that he was no advocate of what Mr. Wendeil Phillips calls, in the latest political sense, "the sublime mingling of races." Else there would be no point in the reply he puts in the mouth of Claudio, when, in the play of "Much Ado About Nothing," that young lord of Florence being asked by Leonate if he is "yet determined" to marry a certain lady, avers the desperation of his constancy by saying "I'll hold my mind were she an Ethiope.

## THE CONNECTICUT ELECTION.

A general election for State officers and members of the Legislature took place in Connecticut yesterday. Our telegraphic report states that the Republicans have carried the State by a large majority. The following are the names of the candidates of the two parties for State fficers:

DEMOCRATIC. — For Governor, Origen S. Seymour, Litchfield. For Lieutenant-Governor, Thomas H. Bond, New Haven. For Secretary of State, James H. Hoyt, Greenwich. For Treasurer, Andrew L Kideon, New Haven. For Comptroller, Lloyd E. Baldwin, Winham. REPUBLICAN.—For Governor, William A. Buckingham, Norwich. For Lieutenant-Governor, Roger Averill, Danbury. For Secretary, J. Hammond Trumbull, Hartford. For Treasurer, Gabriel W. Coite, Hartford. For Comptroller, Leman W. Cutler, Watertown. oller, Leman W. Cutler, Watertown,

## THE ARKANSAS ELECTION.

The vote required under the President's proclamatic was 5.400. The number cast in that portion of the State under the immediate Federal rule will reach nearly 16,000. The following officers are elected:

Isaac Murphy, Governor; C. C. Bliss, Lieutenant Governor; Secretary of State R. J. T. White; Auditor, J. B. Berry; Treasurer, E. D. Ayers; Attorney General, C. T. Jordan; Judges of the Supreme Court, T. D. W. Yowley, C. A. Harper, E. Baker; Members of Congress, D. M. Jacks, Helens district; J. M. Johnson, Johnson county; A. A. C. Rogers claims a majority for him Congress in the second district.

#### THE ALMADEN MINE CASE. The Supreme Court yesterday rendered its decision

the great quicksilver mine case, reversing that of the court below in favor of the United States, and affirming the validity of the survey under which the claimant holds

and was vesterday in consultation for an hour or two with the Secretary of War It is supposed he will soon leave

#### CONGRESS-MONDAY.

Amongst the business in the SENATE yesterday was the cooption of a communication from the Secretary of War, reply to Mr. Johnson's resolution of March 30th, palling for a copy of the order from General Dix to Provost Marshal Dodge, of Baltimore, in 1861, prior to he November election. The Secretary says that no such order is on the files of the Department, and he has no lowledge of any such.

Mr. SUMNER, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, ported a bill for the assessment and satisfaction of claims American citizens growing out of French spoliations prior to 1901. He also reported back the House bill on the same subject, which, on his motion, was indefinitely

Mr. GRIMES made a speech in opposition to the bill from the floure to provide for voluntary enlistments of persons in certain States into regiments of other States. He desired, he said, to put himself on record against this bill, before the evils which are to result from it, should it pass, shall be realized. Under the bill States which may not have been successful in filling their quotes could go into States in rebellion and enlist colored men who had been slaves to make their deficiency. To this he had decided objections. Agents will be rushing into these States, and their recruiting will not only be for present but for future drafts. It would render "confusion worse confounded" and demoralize our army.

Mesers. SHERMAN and TRUMBULL also spoke against the bill, and Mr. WILSON in its favor. The subject was then laid over.

In the House of Representatives a resolution, offered by Mr. ARNOLD, calling upon the Secretary of War, if not incompatible with the public interest, to furnish the number of troops called into the service since March, 1861, the quotas from each State, &c was taken up and adopted.

A resolution offered on a prior day by Mr. ELDREDGE, calling upon the Secretary of War, if not incompatible with the public interest, for information as to the amount received for commutation for drafted men, and what disposition has been made of the money; also, the number of substitutes purchased by the Department for drafted men, and the amount paid for each, stating where they were procured and whether they were white or black, &c., having been called up, it was, on motion of Mr. STEVENS, laid on the table-year 60, paye 46. A similar disposition was made-year 64, nays 42-of a resolution offered several days ago by Mr. BROWN, of Wiscousin calling upon the Secretary of War to furnish the House the number of negro regiments enlisted, the amount paid for bounty, pay, and expenses of their organization. and how many have been killed and wounded in battle, dis criminating between the battles.

The following resolution, reported by Mr. DAVIS, of Maryland, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, was after some conversational debate, unanimously adopted

year 109:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress of the United States are unwilling by silence to leave the nations of the world under the impreasion that they are indifferent spectators of the deplorable events now transpiring in the Republic of Mexico; therefore, they think it fit to declare that it does not accord with the people of the United States to acknowledge a Monarchical Government erected on the ruins of any Republican Government in Mexico, under the auspices of any European Power."

### NEGRO SUFFRAGE.

The reader will observe by our report of the process had in the Senate on Thursday last, that a majority of that body has decided not to restrict the right of suffrage, and, as we understand, of holding office, in the new Terri custom in organizing new Territories. The vote on the amendment thus making the negro and white citizen equal before the law" was as follows:

YEAS-Mesers. Brown, Chandler, Clarke, Collamer Conness, Dixon, Fessenden, Foot, Foster, Grimes, Hale, Harlan, Harris, Howard, Howe, Morgan, Morrill, Pome-

roy, Sumner, Wade, Wilkinsen, and Wilsou—22.

NAYS—Mesers. Buckalew, Carlile, Cowan. Davis,
Harding, Henderson, Johnson, Lane of Indiana, Nesmith,
Powell, Riddle, Saulsbury, Sherman, Ten Eyek, Trumbull,
Van Winkle, and Willey—17.

As it is probable that few if any negroes will ever emigrate to this remote Territory, it will occur to every reader that the principal motive of those who voted for the amendment must have been to signalize their adhesion to the policy of negro suffrage in the future.

## THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.

The report made in the House of Representatives by Mr. WARD, from the Committee on Commerce, on the subject of the reciprocity treaty, recommends the abrogation of the treaty according to its terms-that is, twelve months after the ten years to which it is limited to have force and effect—unless in the mean time another conven tion shall be entered into which shall be truly reciprocal in its advantages to the Governments and people of the United States and Great Britain. The important feature in the report is that the province of Canada has latterly adopted measures of legislation which destroy the recipro cal relations which existed at the date of the negotiation of the treaty by laying duties on articles of merchapdise according to their value at the place where they were last bought. The report of the committee states the advantages derived by this country from the right under the treaty to navigate the rivers of the Provinces and the canale communicating between the great Lakes at d the Atlantic, and also the rights acquired by which citizens of the United States have free and full enjoyment of the fisheries, in exchange for the provincial right to sell their products in our markets. Proceedings of Boards of Trade of various Northwestern cities are reproduced, reprecenting the mutual advantage of truly reciprocal relations between the United States and the British Pro-

# EDUCATION OF FREEDMEN.

On the 22d of March Gen. Banks issued a military order at New Orleans, providing for the rudi mental instruction of freed negroes in his department. The order onstitutes a Board of Education to consist of three mem bers, who are empowered to establish one or more com mon schools in every school district that may be defined by the Provost Marshal General; to purchase suitable plots and erect school houses upon them; to employ proper teachers; to provide books, stationery, and apparatus; to prescribe a course of study, and to levy a school tax upon the real and personal property within each school

The Legislature of Ohio adjourned on Thursday last to the first Tuesday of January, 1865, having been in session since the first Monday of last January. Both branches have been strongly Republican, and the Cincinnati Gazette save that but little difficulty has been encountered in passing those important measures which the exigencies of the

Gen. KING, the United States Minister at Ronge, writes hat the Americans in Rome have made liberal contribu tions to the Metropolitan Fair for the Sanitary Commision, about to be held in New York, and that the Pope and Dardinal Antonelli have joined in the contributions.

The late Earl of Ellesmere expressed, in a letter to an American friend, his opinion of the British press, as follows: "I writhe under the government of journalism. We are governed at home and represented abroad by a press which makes us odious to the world."

### MARYLAND ELECTION.

constitution, and at the same time to choose members to compose such a Convention in case a majority of the voters shall cast their suffrages in favor of it, the object being to abolish the institution of slavery within the limits of that

State. We learn, from the Baltimore American, that the judges of election in Cecil county, and probably in some other counties, have adopted the following interrogat for their guidance in examining the qualifications of voters

#### 1. Service in the Rebel Army. Have you ever served in the rebel army? 2. Aid to those in Armed Rebellion,

Have you ever given aid to the rebellion?

Have you never given money to those intending to join the rebellion? Have you never given money to their agents?

Have you never given money, clothing, or provisions the purpose of aiding the emigration of persons from State to the South?

Have you never sent money, clothing, or provisions to persons in the South since the rebellion?

3. Comfort and Encouragement to the Rebellion. Note — Comfort or encouragement means advocacy, advice in favor of. We aid the rebellion by giving money, clothing, and provisions; we give it comfort or encouragement by our words. A man who has advocated the cause of the rebellion, who talked in favor of Maryland going with the South, who rejoiced over the victories of the rebel army, has given comfort and encouragement to

Have you ever given comfort or encouragement to the

Have you never in conversation attempted to justify the source of the States in rebellion?

Have you never expressed a wish for the success of the ebellion or its army?

Have you never in conversation discouraged the cause

of the Federal Government?

Did you rejoice over the downfall of Fort Sumter?

4. Disloyalty. NOTE —If the Judges are satisfied that a man is dis-leyal to the United States, it is their duty to refuse his rote, for such person is not a "legal voter" of the State of Maryland.

Are you a loyal citizen of the United States ! Have you been loyal ever since the beginning of the

Have you never rejoiced over the defeat of the Union rmy?

Have you never rejoiced over the success of the rebel rmy ? When the Union army and the rebel army meet in

NOTE.—After interrogating the person offering to vote, the Judges may hear other evidence to prove or disprove his statements, and must be governed by the weight of

## THE LATE DISTURBANCE IN ILLINOIS.

The Illinois troubles appear to be at an end. The port on Saturday last was that "all was quiet." At that ime the prisoners arrested had been sent to Springfield, the State capital, and no further trouble was apprehended The affair, it seems, though a very serious and most lamentable tragedy, was greatly misrepresented in a political point of view. It was merely a local quarrel between some soldiers and citizens of Coles county. The following account of it is from a correspondent of the Chicago

Times:

MATTOON, (ILL) MARCH 31. 1863.

Great efforts are being made to give the recent troubles at Charleston, in this county, a political significance to which they are not entitled, and to this end the wildest exaggerations and grossest misstatements are industriously circulated and telegraphed all over the country. From a visit to Charleston this afternoon, and a conversation with many who participated in or were witnesses of the unfor-

facts in the case.

For some time past there have been affrays at Charles ton and in different parts of Coles county between the citizens and the soldiers, to which liquor contributed quite as much ... not more than politics. Some citizens from O'Hair's retilement had been quite roughly handled by the soldiers, several of whom it is reported on one or two occasions assisted each other in beating citizens. The people of this neighborhood became much incensed, and determined upon revenge, which they designed inflicting by the same means they claimed the soldiers had resorted to,

that is in superior numbers.

Last Monday was the commencement of the spring term of court in Coles county, a day on which many different of court in Coles county, a day on which many different of the spring term of the sp gens are accustomed to visit the county seat. Hon. John R. Eden, the Democratic member of Congress from this district, was also advertised to address his constituents. The two events would necessarily bring a large number of people together on that day, and Mr. Eden's promised address made the assemb'age largely Democratic. The people of O Hair's settlement were aware of the advantage ple of O'Hair's settlement were aware of the advantage they would have on that day, above all others, in an afray with the soldiers. They believed all the Democrats present would participate and give the soldiers a sound drubbing. They conceived that some interference would be made with Mr. Eden when he attempted to speak, and accordingly about thirty of them prepared themselves for the defensive or offensive, as circumstances should require. Some of them had pistols, and others had guns concealed in their wagons under the attaw.

in their wagons under the straw.

Mr. Eden arrived about two o'clock. He quickly saw that both soldiers and cifizens had been drinking quite freely, (as they were using intemperate language and labor-ing under quite a degree of excitement,) and that a speech would necessarily result in a disturbance. He accordingly revoked his appointment. The excitement was not to be allayed, and the leading Democrats of the county induced many of the people to return to their homes, and over two-thirds of those who came out to hear Mr. Eden left town before three o'clock, and some hopes were enter-

town before three o'clock, and some hopes were entertained of preventing any disturbance.

About four o'clock, however, a soldier named Oliver Salee, in passing a citizen named Nelson Wells, ran against
him, asked if there were any copperheads in the county,
said he could whip any copperhead in the county, &c., and
finally asked Wells if he was a copperhead? Wells replied
in the affirmative. Salee put his band on Wells' shoulder,
who stepped back and said, "If you lay your hands on me
I will shoot you." Salee said he would "shoot back."

A minute after, it is said, Wells fired his pistol, whether
at Salee or not is not known. Revolvers were drawn at at Salee or not is not known. Revolvers were drawn at once and used with terrible effect, as was also the shot guns with which the people from O'Hair's neighborhood were provided. Some of the soldiers were armed with revolvers, and some had their muskets where they soon

In two or three minutes Major York, surgeon of the Fifty-fourth Illinois, and Alfred Swain, James Goodrich, and Wm. G. Hart, of the same regiment, and Nelson Wells, were mortally wounded and have since died. Col. Mitchell, Oliver Selee, John Near, Wm. Decker, George Ross, I J. Brocks, soldiers, were wounded, as were also Wm. Gilman, John Trimble, and Sanford Noyes, Repub Wm. Gilman, John Trimble, and Sanford Noyes, R licans, and Geo. J. Collins, John W. Herndon, Demo licans, and Geo. J. Collins, John W. Herndon, Democrats.

The men from O'Hair's settlement then left town.

About half an hour afterwards a prisoner named John
Cooper attempted to escape by running into the store of
John Jenkins, a very estimable citizen and a Republican.

A volley was fired, which killed both Cooper and Jenkins, making the total number of killed seven, and of wounded eleven. Col. Mitchell telegraphed to Mattoon, and two hundred and fifty of his regiment came up to stitutional rights. It would also, he argued, deprive them Charleston, and squads were sent out and many persons arrested. John R. Eden left town as soon as the affray

A SENSATION STORY SPOILED -Some of the papers had a sensation story, the other day, about the hanging of a Rev. Mr. Cox, chaplain of a negro regiment, by the Confederates, near Donaldsonville, La. The story is spoiled by the New Orleans Era of the 25th ultimo, which says :

nurenced, which, with other Democrats, he had been

"We met Mr. Cox on our streets yesterday, looking as well as ever. We were the first to convey to him the in-formation that he had been hanged, at which he was not a

The Rev. Dr. John N. Campbell died in Albany (N. Y.) a few days ago. He was formerly a professor in the University of Virginia, and during Gen. Jackson's Administration the paster of a Presbyterian church in Washington and chaplain to Congress. He was a regent of the University at Albany, and a man of signal ability.

### CONGRESSIONAL.

### PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE

Extracts from Our Daily Reports

THE CIVIL APPROPRIATION BILL. Mr. FESSENDEN, from the Finance Committee, reported back the House bill making appropriations for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the Government for the next fiscal year, with amendments raising the appropriation for clerks and messengers in the bureaus of the Adjustant General, Quartermaster General, Paymaster General, Commissary General and Col. of Ordnance, \$600,000. These are understood to be for persons hester to be appointed. The reductions of House appropriations for the Department of Agriculture are over \$50,000, as follows: \$11,000 upon reductions for clerks, etc.; collection of agricultural statistics \$8,000; areds \$10,000; expenses for seed room \$16,000; for experimental garden on reservation No. 2 and expenses \$5,000

MONTANA TERRITORY. Mr. WADE called up the bill from the House

striking out the words in regard to voters, "every white male inhabitant," and insert "every free male citizen of the United States, and those who have declared their in-

Mr. JOHNSON said that the purpose was evidently to give the elective franchise to colored men, and if those give the elective francisse to colored men, and it mose now being freed were to go to these Territories they would hardly be fitted at once for that privilege, The matter should be left to the people of those Territories. The amendment was adopted by the following vote:

The amendment was adopted by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs Brown, Chandler, Clarke, Collamer, Conness, Dixon, Fessenden, Foot, Foster, Grimes, Hale, Harlan, Harris, Howard, Howe, Morgan, Morrill, Pomeroy, Sumner, Wade, Wilkinson, and Wilson—22.

NATS—Messrs Buckslew, Carille, Cowan, Davis, Harding, Henderson, Jonnson, Lanc of Indiana, Nesmith, Powell, Biddle, Saulthury, Sherman, Ten Eyck, Trumbull, Van Winkle, and Willey—17

The question being then on the passage of the bil!—
Mr. POWELL inquired how many inhabitants were in
the proposed new Territory?
Mr. WADE replied that there were twelve thousand
inhabitants on this side of the mountains and twelve on

the other; and that the population was rapidly increasing on account of new discoveries of gold.

Mr. SUMNER inquired what had suggested the name

of the new Territory—Montana.

Mr. WADE said he could not answer the question.

Mr. HOWARD said that by reference to his old Latin dictionary he found that the word referred to a mountainous country, such as this was described to be [Laughter.]

THE RIGHTS OF NEGROES. The question still being on the passage of the bill—
Mr. SAULSBURY called for the yeas and nays, in consequence of Mr. WILKINSON'S amendment, which he said not only makes negroes voters, but gives them the right to hold office after three months' residence. A negro might thus be elected Governor; but that, he presumed, the people of that Territory would have more good sense than to do.

bu do.

Mr. JOHNSON suggested to Mr. Wilkinson that if he wished to have all black men vote, and that they should have equal political rights under this bill, it would be better to express this purpose in plain terms rather than use the words "citizen of the United States," because in view of the decision of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case that negroes were not citizens of the United States, there would arise some acception in the matter.

Mr. WILKINSON said he desired to let his amendment stand in the form in which it had been adopted, so that neither the word white nor black should appear in the bill.

Mr. SUMNER thought each branch of the Government should construe the Constitution for itself Congress was as good a judge as the Supreme Court, and should not be bound by a decision which had disgraced the country.

Mr. JOHNSON said the decision had been made by the highest tribunal of the land, and by our ablest jurists. Yet the Senator from Massachusetts disposes of it ad canton.

cision? There are many men equal to the honorable Senator, to say the least, and however some may regret that our Constitution is so framed as to require the Court to decide as it did, they yet regard the authority

Mr. Johnson went on to speak of the prejudices which had existed against Chief Justice Taney when first appointed, and referred to the fact that Mr. Clay had been one of his opponents, but subsequently bore testimony to his high character and abundant ability to wear the er-It was no light thing to assault the Chief Justice of the United States. We have, jurispindence has, justice has, the country has an interest in maintaining the charac ter of that tribunal. It was no light thing to pronounce decision of that tribunal a disgrace, and he could no stand and hear it thus unnecessarily done—especially by the gentleman from Massachusetts, whose voice

Il over the land—without protesting against it.
Mr. SUMNER said that the multiplication table says that two and two make four, and if the Supreme Court were to declare that two and two make five, there was reason for his acquiescing in it. He was familiar, too fa miliar, with the Dred Scott decision, and Chief Justio Taney was dwarfed in his opinion by the side of the opin the other Justices in that case. It was fals jurisprudence, and false in its facts, as one of his fellow Justices showed. The Dred Scott decision was one of the strongest influences in bringing about the rebellion, and was Congress to be put in the straight-jacket of that de-

Mr. JOHNSON said he had not defended the Dree Scott decision—bad uttered no opinion of his own on that head—but simply referred to the bad taste of denouncing a decision of the Supreme Court as a disgrace to the country, even when done by the gentleman from Massa chusetts, who always sees truth just as she is, and who is never wrong The gentleman had been the guest of Chief Justice Marshall, but did he ever learn from him to assail with vituperative epithets the decision of the highest tribunal of the land ! Marshall had been denounced day, and the distinguished persons who did so, ere he closed his earthly career, regretted it. With all his respect for the gentleman, and reciprocating his courtesy to one? There are, it is said, other defects in the new him heretofore, he should have to adhere in all matters of law which are important in their character, but not legal opinion to the decisions of Judge Taney rather than

hose of the Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. HALE said that he perhaps had no better opinion
f the Dred Scott decision than the gentleman from Mass husetts, but he disagreed with him in one thing-he did ot think it was a disgrace to the Supreme Court of the

The bill was then passed-yeas 29, nays 8. SLAVERY.

The Senate proceeded to the unfinished business of

yesterday, being the joint resolution to amend the Consti-tution so as to abolish slavery.

Mr. DAVIS, of Kentucky, addressed the Senate a length in opposition to the resolution. The general reasons assigned for this measure—that slavery was the cause of the rebellion—struck him as very unsound. He would be very willing to acknowledge the guilt of Massachusetts and South Carolina, and abolish both of these States. If essential of principles of our mingled system of national and State governments. He held, when a State was in the performance of its duties in obedience to the Constitution, that it was entitled to immunity from the infraction its local laws on the part of the General Government Any other principle would be despotism. These amend ments would destroy a fundamental principle of the Con of their right to regulate any of their domestic institutions He said slavery was the creature of local law alone. Upon what pretext, then, did Senators assert that Congress had urisdiction over it in sovereign States? He denied such power, either in Congress or the Executive. He said the professions of President Lincoln were moderate enough in the beginning, and if he had not listened to the whispers of fanaticism and been guided alone by patriotm and been guided alone by patriot sm, what a name he would now have in the heart of eve

Mr. Davis arraigned the President at great length for military interference in elections in Kentucky, Missouri, Maryland, and Delaware, to promote the election of representatives friendly to his cause. He considered that he most atrocious and impudent ususpation of the Presi lent was his proposition for the reconstruction of State Governments. This was a power alone to be exercise Congress, according to the decision of the Suprement. He thought that the President should be in peached, for the purpose of vindicating the freedom of the American people. In the absence of his military power, he did not believe the President would have ever dared to do what he had done. With a Constitution over-

thrown, the Government was at an end, as that alone was its life, its essence, and its soul. He believed, religiously, that the present Executive was bent on the destruction that the present Executive was bent on the destruction of this Government, if he deemed that necessary to continue himself in power, though he grieved to say it. He did not know which Government threatened the people c.ost, that of the rebel, Jefferson Davis, or that of the usurper, Abraham Lincoln. He wished to see all usurpers struck down by the vote of the people at the polls. He was for any organization, any party, any power, any candidate on God's earth, except a negro, for the overthrow
of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Davis believed that the highest interest of our common country demanded his defeat in
his attempted usurpation and re-election, and so far as his
feeble will and acts could go he intended to defeat him.

Mr. SAULSBURY addressed the Senate in opposition
to the resolution. He argued that it was the intention of

to the resolution. He argued that it was the intention of the framers of the Constitution to protect slavery as a do-mestic institution as it existed at the time of the formation of the Federal compact. He denied that if this amendof the Federal compact. He denied that if this amendment received the senction of three-fourths of those States it would affect those States which should protest against it. The Constitution was a contract between sovereign and equal States, to be construct just as any other contract was, according to its true meaning and purpose, and was not designed to regulate the title to property in the States, but for great common purposes, which could be better subserved by States in the aggregate than separately. We could not now propose these amendments to all the States, because some eight or nine of them are out of the Union, and we did not pretend to exercise control over them. As for the Border loyal States Maryland agreed to the policy of emancipation as a man would agree to deliver his purse for the Border loyal States Maryland agreed to the policy of emancipation as a man would agree to deliver his purse at the instance of a highwayman with a pistol at his head. Would Senators say that emancipation in Louisiana and Arkansas was the act of the sovereign people? Take away your bayonets, and not one man in fifty would approve your amendment or recognise your authority. You may succeed in Maryland, Delaware, and Missouri in injuring those who have never injured you, but unless you can bring all the seceded States under your yoke you will have accomplished nothing by your proposed amendment to the Constitution, because, if the slave is used as a soldier, on his recovery by his master his title to him is unimagired. on his recovery by his master his title to him is unimpaired

Mr. CLAKK contended that under the Constitution there were some things we were prohibited from doing. We cannot revive the slave trade or pass a capitation tax bill. As the Constitution nowhere prohibited us from abolishing slavery, it is clear that we may do so. He argued that slavery owed its giant growth to the Constitution, though not created by it. It was planted in it, and has been fenced round and protected by it, so that no power short of the amendment of the Constitution as now proposed could root it out. The results of the present war are a growth from the seed of slavery, warmed into war are a growth from the seed of slavery, warmed into life under the Constitution. He would not blame the patriotic founders of this Government for their acts, because they were surrounded by difficulties and did as well as they could. He proceeded to trace the aggressions of slavery, and held that as it had now marshaled armies and stained battle-fields with blood and brought the great discounters it was time to use the prover, not trees on the country, it was time to use the power, not prohibited, for its abolishment.

Mr. DAVIS moved the following amendment, and called the yeas and nays on its adoption :

"That no negro, or person whose mother or grandmother is or was a negro, shall be a citizen or the United States, or be eligible to any civil or military office, or to any place of trust or profit under the United States."

No quorum being present, the Senate adjourned

## COMMUTATION OF PUNISHMENT.

The write of execution directed to the Marshal by the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia for the execution of Jeremish Hendricks and Emanuel Pollard were not carried into effect on Friday, in consequence " an official construction placed upon the law recently passed

authorizing the appointment of a warden of the jail The Marshal reported to the President the construction he placed upon the act, and the President thereupon requested the opinion of the Attorney General; to which Attorney General BATES replied as follows:

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

TO THE PRESIDENT Six: I have had the honor to receive your note of this day, endorsed upon a printed copy of "a bill to authorize the appointment of a warden of the jail in the District of Co-

You require my opinion " whether this law relieves the Marshal of the District from the duty of executing the death sentence upon persons under that sentence in the District jail?" That bill having become a law, as your note implies, I think it clear beyond a doubt that the Marshal no longer has any duty or lawful power to execute any sentence of death upon any man imprisoned in the jai of the District of Columbia, under sentence of death.

The second section of the act is explicit and is in these words: "That the said warden shall have the exclusive supervision and control of the jails in the said District, and accountable for the safe-keeping of all the prisoners ally committed thereto, and shall have all the power legally committed thereto, and shall have all the and discharge all the duties heretofore legally exe and discharged over said juil and the prisoners therein by

This plainly transfers all the powers and duties of the Marshal, in that behalf, to the warden of the jail. I have the honor to be, most respectfully,

Your obedient servant EDW'D BATES, Attorney General. The PRESIDENT, in view of this opinion, commuted the punishment of said Hendricks and Pollard to imprisonment in the penitentiary for life.

The Marshal proceeded to the jail at eleven o'clock and, after reading the writ of execution to the prisoners respectively, read the order of commutation of the President, and they were remanded to their respective cells. It may be questioned whether, during the existence of this law, capital punishment in the District of Columbia is not virtually abolished. The Marshal having no right to execute, and the warden of the iail not being an officer of the Court, can the Court direct process of execution to the warden, or to any one else not an officer of the Court ! If not, can a writ of execution be executed by any necessarily, perhaps, affecting the present matter. This law originated in the Senste, in which body it was called up and passed on the 24th of February, and on the same day, under the operation of the previous question.

was passed by the House of Representatives. There is at present no warden of the jail, as the nomi nation for that office, made some days ago, is still pending in the Senate.

## STEEL-CLAD BLOCKADE-RUNNERS

We have a report from England that four new paddlesteamers, built of steel and of great speed, are about ready to leave Liverpool to engage in running the blockade. They are named the Badger, Let Her B. Fox. and Let Her Rip, and were built for the service. Another report it had been done thirty years ago this war would not have occurred. He was opposed to the present measure for many reasons. It strikes at one of the most vital and race to the Isle of Man on the 26th of March. The Lon-

"Five hundred thousand bales of cotton are stated to be now in the hands of the Confederate Government, while two hundred thousand would suffice to pay off the whole loan. A large amount of bonds have already been deliv-ered and cotton received in exchange, according to agree-Liverpool may stimulate the purchase of bonds; indeed, the principal buying for the last week has been on Liverpool account. There are also, as we have before stated. other negotiations in progress, to which we shall probably before long have again to refer."

Lieut. Gen. Grant returned to the Army of the Potom esterday morning. He was accompanied by Major Gen J. P. Sheridan, formerly a division commander in the Army of the Cumberland, but now ordered to the Army

The Maine Legislature has defined "the Lord's day" to extend legally from midnight Saturday to mis

THE ICE CROP -The ice crop has been gathered for the season, and is a very large one. All the lakes and ponds from which ice is taken for the New York market have yielded most bountifully; and, if the law of supply and demand is applied to see as to most other mundame